

# **Robley D. Evans papers**

## **S441**

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July 22, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Title</b>	Robley D. Evans papers
<b>Date</b>	1910/11/03
<b>Extent</b>	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Text [Folder]</b>	S441

### Preferred Citation

Robley D. Evans papers, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Biographical Note

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Robley Dunglison Evans was born in Floyd County, Virginia on August 18, 1846. He was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1860 from Utah and was graduated in 1863. He was commissioned in the rank of Acting Ensign during October 1863 and served in the USS Powhatan. He was present at the ground assault on Fort Fisher, North Carolina in January 1865 and was badly wounded. He retired May 1866 but was able to return to active duty as Lieutenant in 1867. He married Charlotte Taylor, with whom he had three children and who was the sister of Rear Admiral Henry Clay Taylor, USN. He served from the late 1860s to the 1880s in USS Piscataqua (renamed the Delaware), was promoted to Lieutenant Commander, did shore duty at the Washington Navy Yard, Naval Academy, served on the USS Shenandoah and USS Congress, training ship Saratoga, Light House Inspector and member of the Light-House Board. In 1891-1893 he served in the Pacific Ocean as Commanding Officer of the gunboard Yorktown and earned the nickname "Fighting Bob" due to his determination during the 1891-1892 crisis with Chile. He also worked to stop illegal seal hunting off Alaska.

He was promoted to Captain in June 1893, was on the Light-House Board again and commanded the armored cruiser New York and the battleship Indiana from 1894-1897. He commanded the Battleship Iowa during the Spanish American War in 1909. He was assigned to the Board of Inspection and Survey from October 1898-1902 and served as its president after his promotion to Rear Admiral during February 1901.

He commanded the Asiatic Fleet from 1902-1904, including the Atlantic Fleet in 1905. He led a large force of battleships around South America in 1907-1908 on the first leg of the Great White Fleet's historic cruise around the world but was forced to quit due to ill health. He retired in August 1908 but continued to serve on the Navy's General Board. He invested in shares of the California Consolidated Oil Company in 1910. He is responsible for a number of contributions to naval ships and processes and wrote several books and articles about his life and battles. Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem to him as a tribute. He died in Washington, D.C. on January 3, 1912 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Information found within the collection.

"Evans, Robley D.". 1880 United States Federal Census. Retrieved 2014/07/08. <http://archives.ancestry.com>

"Evans, Robley D.". District of Columbia, Select Marriages, 1830-1912. Retrieved 2014/07/08. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

"Evans, Robley D., USN, Rear Admiral". Naval History Center. Retrieved 2014/07/08. <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/pers-us/uspers-e/rd-evans.htm>

"Evans, Robley Dunglison". Find a Grave Memorial. Retrieved 2014/07/08. <http://www.findagrave.com>

"Evans, Robley Dunglis[t]on" Arlington Cemetery. Retrieved 2014/07/08. <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/rdevans.htm>

## Scope and Contents

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This collection includes an autographed, signed letter from Robley D. Evans in Washington, D.C. on 1910/11/03 regarding the California Consolidated Oil Company.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

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### Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation.

### Accruals

No further additions are expected.

### Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2014/07/08 by Edythe Huffman. EAD finding aid created 2014/07/08 by Edythe Huffman.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- California Consolidated Oil Company.

### Geographic Name(s)

- Washington D.C.

### Subject(s)

- Correspondence